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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1946.



# THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1946.

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MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

The following particulars are presented for your information. The year has been uniformly favourable from a Public Health point of view. There was no epidemic to note. In fact the number of infectious diseases was surprising small. The Sanitary department has been very helpful as in past years. We have back with us Mr. R. M. Sharphouse, Additional Sanitary Inspector, after his unhappy war experience in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp. There he was associated with the R.A.M.C., and although his personal experience was unhappy he learnt much, especially in connection with tropical disease which will be very helpful.

### Public Health Staff.

Clerk (full time): W. A. Wilkinson.

Medical Officer (part time): W G. MacArthur.

Sanitary Inspector (full time): F. Metcalfe.

Additional Sanitary Inspector & Housing Inspector (full time): R. M. Sharphouse.

### SECTION A.

#### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	72,000 (approx)
Estimated residential population		...	11,930
	(R.G's figures)		
Number of inhabited houses		...	3,554
Rateable value	...	...	£70,441
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	£293

(ONE)

### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	Male	Female	
Live Births—	218	107	111	Birth Rate per
Legitimate	195	97	98	1000 of the
Illegitimate	23	10	13	population 18.27
Still Births—	7	2	5	Rate per 1000
Legitimate	7	2	5	of all
Illegitimate	—	—	—	Births 32.15
Deaths	153	71	82	Death Rate per
				1000 of the
				population 13.66

#### Deaths from puerperal causes—

(from the R.G's short list)

No 29 Puerperal and post abortive sepsis, Nil.

No. 30. Other maternal causes, 1.

#### Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

Total Deaths	1 male	10 females
,,  ,,  Legitimate	1  ,,	9  ,,
,,  ,,  Illegitimate	Nil	1  ,,
All Infants per 1000 live births		50.45
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		51.28
Illegitimate  ,,  illegitimate  ,,		43.45
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		1

## SECTION B

### 1. Public Health Staff.

See above.

### 2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

As in previous years by the Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton at an inclusive charge.

(TWO)

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

As in previous years and provided by the Council. As the old ambulance had ceased to be road worthy a second-hand ambulance was purchased by the Council. This has proved to be reliable and more comfortable than the old one.

(c) Nursing in the home.

The same arrangements prevail as in previous years and are undertaken by various Committees in different parts of the Area. Some of these areas link up with areas of neighbouring Councils.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

These are also as in previous years and are not undertaken by the Council.

(e) Hospitals.

For the treatment of infectious diseases, the arrangement with Northallerton Urban & Rural District Councils still functions satisfactorily.

### SECTIONS C. D & E

See the Sanitary Inspector's report which is incorporated with this.

### SECTION F

#### Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases

Diphtheria. 2 cases were notified: one a male of 5, the other a female of 31. Both cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital. The child had been immunised; the disease was of a mild nature.

Scarlet Fever. 13 cases were notified. They were widely spread throughout the area, and were of a mild nature, and the disease did not in any case assume epidemic form.

Measles and Whooping Cough. No case was reported during the year, a most unusual thing.

Pneumonia. 3 cases were notified.

Puerperal Fever and Ophthalmia Neonatorum. No cases notified.

**Notifiable Diseases during the year.**

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	13	9	Nil
Diphtheria	2	2	Nil
Pneumonia	3	Nil	1
Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia
1-2	—	—	—
2-3	1	—	—
3-4	—	—	—
4-5	3	1	—
5-10	7	—	—
10-15	—	—	—
15-25	1	—	—
25-45	1	1	1
45-65	—	—	2
65 & over	—	—	—
Total	13	2	3

(3) Cancer. No action taken

(4) (a) Prevention of Blindness. No action taken.

b; Tuberculosis.

As in previous years. Cases are reported to the County Medical Officer and are seen by the Tuberculosis Officer either at the Rutson Hospital at Northallerton or at home. Full laboratory aids are available and where necessary x-ray examination is done either at Northallerton or Bedale.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	0

## Tuberculosis

In the table following viz, the Causes of Death 5 deaths are recorded under the headings of different forms of Tuberculosis while in the preceding table only one is recorded. The difference is due to the fact that the other deaths occurred outside the area, but were transferred to this area for statistical purposes.

### Causes of Deaths in Thirsk Rural District in 1946.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	2
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	1
Ditto of Breast	—	1
Other sites— Cancer	4	7
Intra cranial Vascular Lesions	11	12
Heart Disease	28	28
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	2	2
Bronchitis	3	1
Pneumonia	—	1
Other respiratory diseases	2	—
Ulcer Peptic	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	1
Appendicitis	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	2
Nephritis	4	2
Maternal Causes	—	1
Premature Birth	—	5
Congenital Malformation Birth	—	—
Injury	1	4
Suicide	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	—	1
Other violent causes	3	1
All other causes	6	7
Totals	71	82

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MacARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.



THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector  
for the Year 1946.

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MR F. METCALFE, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.,  
(Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor  
and Certificated Meat Inspector.)

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Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report on Public Health  
Administration in the Area for the year 1946.

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF THE AREA.**

Water.

Extension to the Council's water mains were laid from the Pickhill bore hole supply to Sinderby and Holme; that to the adjoining village of Ainderby Quernhow is still under review. With more and more farmers commencing the production of milk, thus requiring a much larger consumption of water in the installation of Milk Coolers, Drinking Bowls and for general cleansing purposes, the provision of water supplies of ample sufficiency and quality becomes an urgent necessity in the production of a clean milk.

Although it is pleasing to note that the majority of the 49 parishes comprising the Council's Area are supplied with piped water, there are, however, many outlying milk farms with poor water supplies but owing to the difficulty of obtaining materials some time must elapse before piped supplies can be provided, although schemes have already been approved by the W.A.E.C. The village of Thornton-le-Street was also provided with piped water during the year, being an extension of the Thirsk and District Water Company's mains.

31 visits were made of water supplies and 19 samples submitted for analysis.

## Drainage and Sewerage.

No extensions were made during the year; 49 tanks were cleaned out; 48 sewers cleansed and 120 drains, chiefly on Council Houses Estates, cleared of blockages; 33 drains were tested. Owing to the insufficiency of sewers generally and the need for treatment of the sewage, it was agreed for schemes to be prepared for the whole of the area for the provision of proper sewage arrangements.

## Public Cleansing.

The scavenging of the whole of the Council's area was commenced during the year, the work being carried out by direct labour with two 7 cubic yard Karrier collecting vehicles. The oldest Karrier purchased in 1938 was used on the Town work, and the more recent one for the district. At the beginning, the district scavenging proved a heavy task with so much ground to cover with the one vehicle, also there were many outstanding refuse accumulations to clear in several of the villages, but by the end of the year a once monthly collection from each house had been achieved.

A larger capacity vehicle was found necessary in order to save time and running costs and it was agreed to purchase one 10 cubic yard vehicle to replace the old Karrier. This was obtained and in service towards the end of the year.

In undertaking the Scavenging of the whole area, the cleansing of cesspools was also included; this led to many requests from house holders for tanks to be emptied.

Our portable pumping set, which had been used for tank emptying since bought new in 1934, was quite unable to cope with the additional work, particularly so, as the team labour required was difficult to obtain. The Council therefore agreed to the purchase of a Cesspool Emptying Vehicle, which would also be used in the emptying of the night soil pails.

Approximately 500 pails are emptied each week in the two principal parishes, the contents being disposed of on agricultural land for manurial purposes. It was, however, becoming increasingly difficult each year to find suitable tipping sites for same and carrying out the work without causing nuisance.

## Salvage.

A free collection of waste paper and other salvage, along with trade waste is made from local shops. Collection from house holders and other premises being made on request. In addition, a man was regularly employed for collecting waste paper and other salvage from premises in Thirsk and Sowerby, collecting the material with a hand barrow.

The total weight of salvage collected and sold during the year was approx 38 tons, namely :—

	Tons	Cwts
Waste Paper	36	13
Rags	—	12
Bones	—	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bottles		127 Dozen
	37	19 $\frac{1}{2}$

Total Value £305/10/7

## Mileages of Vehicles.

	Miles	
	Scavenging	Salvage
Karrier No. 1 for Thirsk & Sowerby	4245	36
Karrier No. 2 District Scavenging	9148	195
Karrier No. 3 District Scavenging	768	—
Total Miles Scavenging	14,305	
Total Miles Salvage	377	

An ex-army Morris truck was purchased and brought into use on 3rd November, 1946, for collecting salvage and general purposes vehicle, and covered 146 miles on Salvage by the end of the year and 144 miles Scavenging.

## Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919, Infestation Order, 1943.

Your Rodent Officer has submitted the following report for work carried out in 1946 :

Total Inspections made	1775
Total Re-inspections made	754
Total Infestations dealt with	125
Total Major Infestations	19
Total Heavy Minor Infestations	6
Total Minor Infestations	100

Poison baits used were Red Squill, Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide, a total weight of 2293 oz. being used during the year.

Estimated number of rats destroyed 3337. The sewers had one complete maintenance treatment.

The Council's refuse tips and salvage depots were frequently visited and treated. No claim was made against the Council during the year of animals or poultry being poisoned.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total inspections made during the year	664
Total re-inspections made during the year	241

Inspections of Houses (Public Health and Housing)	44
,,    Farms and Dairies	56
,,    Food	37
,,    Premises (Civil Building Licences)	28
,,    Factories	14
,,    Nuisances	57
,,    Infectious Diseases	4
,,    Making-up Rooms	4
,,    Butchers' Shops	4
,,    Fried Fish and Chip Premises	8
,,    Ice Cream Premises	9
,,    Shops Act	1
,,    Keeping of Animals	4
,,    Public Conveniences	6
,,    Miscellaneous	11

Visits re Water Supplies	31
,,    Scavenging	53
,,    Building Bye Laws	36
,,    Council Houses	102

(TEN)

„ Housing Sites	2
„ Council House Applications	34
„ Infestation Order	4
„ Drains	86
„ Sewers and Sewage	25

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Number of Premises requiring Sanitary Improvement	107
„ Nuisances dealt with	57
„ Complaints received and dealt with	20
„ Houses disinfected	5
„ Houses treated for vermin	1
„ Water Samples submitted for analysis	19
„ Sewers cleansed	48
„ Drains cleansed	120
„ Drains tested	33
„ Tanks cleaned out	49

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### Notices, etc.

Informal Notices to Owners or Occupiers	142
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#### Statutory Notices.

Milk and Dairies Order 1926 Articles 12 (1) & 13 (1)	5
Milk and Dairies Order 1926 Article 25	6
Public Health Act 1936 and Water Act	9
No. of Letters sent out	748
Shops, no action	
Smoke abatement, none	
Swimming Baths, none	
Eradication of Bed Bugs, no action	

### Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations

Common Lodging Houses, none

Tents, Vans and Sheds, no formal action.

Ice Cream premises 3 registered.

Slaughterhouses. All slaughtering carried out at the Government Slaughterhouse, Northallerton.

Licences issued to slaughtermen under the slaughter of animals Act, 1933, 4.

## Petroleum Regulations

No: of Licences issued : Storage of Petrol 30  
Storage of Calcium Carbide 1

## Housing.

### Erection of New Houses.

#### 1. By local authority.

In spite of considerable difficulty in obtaining materials, 22 houses were completed and occupied by the end of the year, and 74 more houses were in course of erection.

Of the 22 houses completed 6 were of the Swedish timber permanent pre fabricated type, erected in the parish of Topcliffe; the remaining 16 being traditional type houses completing the King's Gardens Estate.

Negotiations were commenced towards the end of the year with a view to taking over the Army Camp Site on Stockton Road, Thirsk, for conversion to temporary dwellings.

#### 2. By private enterprise.

Approved	28
Number of licences issued	28
Number of houses complete and occupied	3
(Parishes of Thornton-le-Moor, Thirsk & Bagby)	
Number in course of erection at end of year	25

## Rural Housing Survey.

Owing to the impossibility of any large scale works of repairs being undertaken it was decided to discontinue carrying out the survey by a complete and detailed inspection of each house, and to merely make a preliminary survey of all houses up to a Rateable value of £26. Each house being provisionally placed in one of the five specified categories namely :

- (i) satisfactory in all respects.
- (ii) minor defects.
- (iii) requiring repair, structural alteration & improvement
- (iv) appropriate for re-conditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
- (v) unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.

The result of the survey at the end of the year for each parish surveyed were as follows :

Parish	Class I	Class 2	Class 3 & 4	Class 5	Cases of overcrowding
Thirsk	77	151	118	258	20
Sowerby	275	290	80	66	17
Carlton Miniott	15	90	27	17	2
South Otterington	7	27	22	4	—
Kepwick	3	22	7	—	—
South Kilvington	14	35	10	9	1
Hutton Sessay	3	13	4	3	—
Birdforth	1	3	2	—	—
Sessay	12	38	7	6	1
Thornton Bridge	5	7	2	5	—
Ainderby Quernhow	8	7	2	5	—
Knayton	7	49	4	5	—
Catton	2	10	5	3	—
	429	742	290	381	41

Total number of houses surveyed — 1842.

#### Action under the Housing and Public Health Act.

Number of houses inspected (not including inspection under the Rural Housing Survey)	44
Informal action taken :	
Notices served	29
Notices complied with	23
Statutory Action :	
Sec. 9	Nil
Notices served	Nil
Notices complied with	Nil
Repairs carried out by L.A. in default of owner	Nil
Sec. II	2
Notices served	Nil
Undertakings accepted	Nil
Houses demolished	Nil
Overcrowding.	
Abatement Notices served	Nil
Cases abated	6

## Control of Civil Building.

Licences granted for essential building work :	
Housing	318
Other	173
Certificates to obtain materials issued	97

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### (a) Milk supply.

During the year 44 persons were registered as wholesalers and producers of milk.

T.T milk is sold retail in Thirsk and Sowerby, the milk being purchased in bottles and collected direct from the farm on which it is produced.

Number of visits made to farms and dairies during the year, 56.

Notices served for compliance with the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, 11.

### (b) Meat and Other Food.

During the year 27 Certificates were issued in respect of the following foods which after inspection were condemned as unfit for food, namely :

#### Tins of Food.

Jam 6, Milk 114, Carrots 12, P.L. Meat one  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. and one 6 lbs., Pork Sausage 1, Corned Beef 1, Chopped Ham 1, Stewed Steak 2, Steak & Kidney 2, M. & V. 6, Peas 3, Beans 8, Tomato & Fish 1, Cocoa 1, Coffee 1, Celery Soup 1, Pilchards 5, Sardines 1, Macaroni 1.

#### Other Foods.

Dried Apricots  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., Fruitella 297 oz. packets, Custard Powder one gross oz. packets, Dessert Mould 129 oz. packets, Junket Powder 2 oz. packets, Curry Powder 3 oz. packets, Savoury Stuffing 3 oz. packets, Kellog's Cereals 1 packet, Spaghetti 56 lbs., Prunes 75 lbs. Chocolate Cup 10 packets, Bacon 84 lb Sausages 12 lbs. Cheese 6 lbs.

62 inspections were made in connection with food, namely 4 visits were made to Making-up Rooms, 4 Butcher's Shops, 8 Fried Fish & Chip Premises, 9 Ice cream premises and 37 visits reference unsound food.

### Meat.

All slaughtering of animals for food is still carried out at the Ministry of Food Abattoir, Northallerton, and the carcases conveyed to Thirsk and the District by motor waggon for allocation to the butchers.

During the hot months of the year the conveyance of meat carcases by road to scattered areas does not improve the keeping qualities of the meat and an Abattoir situated central to a district is much to be desired to avoid possible wastage of food.

In conclusion I have to thank Mr. R. M. Sharphouse for his contribution to this Report on Housing Matters and his assistance generally.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.





